Witnesses Continue to Dispute Official Story

By Scott Hatfield
ADVANCE Staff

Conflicting medical evidence surrounding the President John F. Kennedy assassination is just one aspect of the case that intrigues Americans to this day. Witnesses to the assassination who stood on Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963, bring another dimension to the Warren Commission's report.

Jean Hill stood so close to the presidential limousine, she could touch it with her hand. But Hill was more interested in seeing her boyfriend, a Dallas policeman who was riding behind the presidential motorcade.

Just as Hill was backing away from the motorcade she saw a flash of light from a rifle, a puff of smoke and a shadowy figure of a man holding a rifle at the very instant JFK's head exploded.

"I saw the flash of light behind the picket fence behind the grassy knoll," Hill said in an interview with *ADVANCE*.

She also said she saw a man running from the school book depository area to the end of the wooden fence. Later, Hill said she thought the man was Jack Ruby, the assailant of Lee Harvey Oswald whom the Warren Commission concluded killed JFK.

"Everyone was frozen and motionless," she said. "But I looked up and saw a man running fast."

Hill wanted to catch that man who she thought was somehow involved in the shooting. She darted across the street, up the grassy knoll (which she claims to have named) to the parking lot behind the picket fence. She looked around for where she thought the shots had come from and saw one single uniformed policeman. She said the policeman was guarding what looked like a rifle. But while she thought that was odd, she dismissed the scene and continued looking for the man who she thought was the shooter and for the man who ran in front of the depository.

"While I'm frantically looking a man grabbed me with a painful grip and said he was Secret Service," Hill said. "I told him I could identify the man."

At that point Hill was taken to the Dallas County Criminal Courts Building across from Dealey Plaza. There were two other men sitting at a table overlooking the assassination site.

"I kept telling them I heard four to six shots, and why didn't they come help me identify the man I saw behind the fence? They told me I did not see the man running and did not hear four to six shots—I only heard three. They said not to mention anything-it would be bad for the government and bad for me."

Thus began Hill's ordeal with the JFK assassination. Since then she's received hundreds of phone calls from the press, as well as harrassing phone calls and attempts at her life and her two children.

And while she is included in the Warren Commission's report, she said the facts in that report were altered and were not part on her original testimony.

Her full story appears in her recently published book, *JFK: The Last Dissenting Witness*. And her character is seen in Oliver Stone's movie *JFK* for which Ms. Hill served as a technical consultant.

Also on Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963 was Beverly Oliver who came to be known as the "babushka lady." It was years later before her identity became known for the simple reason that government officials never sought her out, she said.

Oliver stood on Dealey Plaza filming the motorcade as it approached. Through her view finder she saw JFK's head explode.

"The whole back of his head looked like a bucket of blood came out the back," she said in an interview at her home with *ADVANCE*. "It was awful. They are never going to convince me that that fatal shot came from the book depository."

While Oliver did not see the bullets, she said she saw "puffs of smoke behind the picket fence."

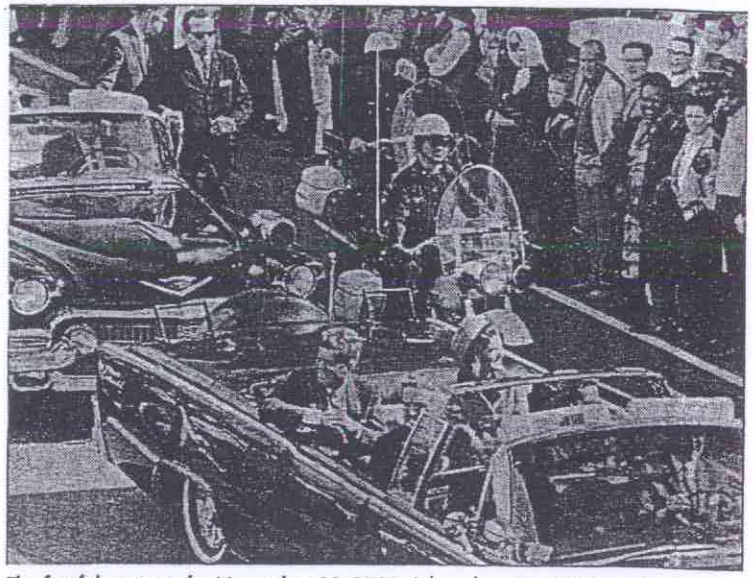
The following Monday, Oliver said her film was confiscated by FBI agent Regis Kennedy.

Both the Warren Commission report and the House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that Oswald and Ruby did not know each other. But Oliver differs. She had worked at the Colony Club, located next to Ruby's Carousel Club in Dallas. She often took her breaks at Ruby's club and said she remembers seeing Ruby and Oswald together.

"Jack says 'I want to introduce you to my friend Lee Oswald. He's with the CIA,'" Oliver recounted. It was when Oliver watched the television news broadcast that showed the shooting of Oswald that she realized it was the same man.

"I saw the guy (Oswald) and thought 'Gee, that is Jack's friend. What is going on?'" Oliver said. "Then I got scared.

"I still believe there is risk involved," she said. "I believe there are people alive who don't want the truth out."



The fateful motorcade, November 22, 1963. *(photo/courtesy JFK Assassination Information Center, Dallas)*

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